

18/6

Seaview near Ryde, Isle of Wight.
August 11th. 1848.

My dear Friend.

It is often with me a matter of serious regret that the bounds of our habitations should be placed so far asunder as they are, and that circumstances, over which we have no controul, should render the interchange of thoughts and sentiments by letter, a matter of nearly as much difficulty and as little frequency, as personal intercourse. This, I am persuaded, is not the fault of either of us: and I am equally persuaded that each is so thoroughly convinced of the esteem and affection of the other, as not to need frequent communication either by letter or in person to keep alive friendship; however delightfully such communication might serve to give scope to those ineffable sympathies, which only true, and I may add, Christian friendship inspires.

Scarcely a week, perhaps not a week, has elapsed since I last saw you, in which I have not thought much of you; especial-
ly on our Sabbath evenings, when one or two of your sweet hymns, serve in our domestic worship to attune our souls to our Redeemer's praise: and during the last twelve months there has not a week passed away without witnessing against my joined and broken determinations to write to you.

NEWPORT
1848
Mr James Montgomerie
This Office
In the Hartshill
Sheffield.



This, however, as I have already said, has not been my fault. Such, for some months, has been the state of my health, that though I have been enabled to drag through the duties of my public station, it has been with great difficulty, and with such entire exhaustion (intellectual exhaustion usually), that I have been altogether disqualified for writing. This inability in great measure continues. I scarcely ever possess the power of composition — I do not mean elegantly or fluently — but at all: often, I feel as though I could ^{as} easily create a planet as form a sentence; and whether this infirmity is to be removed, or to remain, must be left with "Him who doeth all things well." Do not regard what I have written as a symptom of querulousness, but simply as explanatory of my silence.

I have been in this enchanting Island, with my dear Wife and children nearly a month; and I trust we have all found it beneficial. In less than a week we must return to Woolwich: much shall I rejoice, shortly after my return thither, to receive a letter from you. I now and then learn something of you from your Brother; but I wish to know more, and in all that concerns you my dear Wife takes an equal interest. Do then, my valued friend, tell us, by an early letter, how you are in health and spirits, — whether the Muse has, of late, been propitious, — and whe-

ther any more of your poetical effusions, are soon to meet the public eye. There are poets, with regard to whom I wish, as well for their own sakes as for that of the world, that they may in future remain for ever silent, unless they can turn their ~~lutes~~ lyres to purer strains. But fruitless, I fear, is the wish. Let it not wound your humility and delicacy, if I say that it is to you the world principally looks for those antitheses to their poison, in poetry which though the muse of Pindar may inspire, the Spirit which moved David and Isaiah of old, and Milton and Cowper of later times, may approve and bless!

are you at all likely to visit London, and, of course, our Kentish regions, during the Autumn? It would give my dear Anne & myself unfeigned pleasure to see you. A cup of good tea sometimes sets my thoughts afloat in an evening, so that I can enjoy conversation; and with you it would have additional relish.

Believe me, with every good wish, and with unabated affection,

Over yours most faithfully,

Olinthus Gregory.

Will you have the goodness to favour me with the statement of my acc^t. for newspapers? I have asked your Brother 3 or 4 times; but have not yet received it. From the present time, too, I believe, it will be as well for me to adopt your own recommendation, given two years ago, and to continue "the Iris".

AUTOGRAPHE

de

Gregory

Olinthus Gilbert

OBSERVATIONS

L. a. s. 3 p. 4^o Isle of Wight, 11. VIII
1818. gratuliert an den Dichter James
Montgomery. Erwähnt die ihm das
Befinden des Dichters und seine An-
beiden auf literarischen Gebiete.

geb. 29. I. 1774 in Yaxley, Hunting-
donshire, gest. 2. II. 1841 in Woolwich.
Abt. 1798. Befördert zum Privatsekretär
des Mathem. & Astron. in Cambridge, dann
Prof. d. Mathem. an der Militär-Akademie
zu Woolwich von 1802 - 1838 wo er sich
nächstg. Mitglied der Royal Society.

, Lessons astronomical and physical " 1793

, Treatise on astronomy " 1801. Treatise

on mechanics " 1806, An account of

some experiments made in order to deter-

mine the velocity with which sound is

transmitted in atmosphere. " u. v. a.

234 GREGORY (OLINTHUS GILBERT, 1774-1841). Mathematician.

AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED TO JAMES MONTGOMERY,
THE POET.

3 pp., 4to. Isle of Wight, 11th August, 1818.

" Tell us, by an early letter, how you are in health and spirits,—whether the Muse has, of late, been propitious, and whether any more of your poetical effusions are soon to meet the public eye. There are poets with regard to whom I wish, as well for their own sakes as for that of the world, that they may in future remain for ever silent, unless they can tune their lyres to purer strains. But fruitless, I fear, is the wish. Let it not wound your humility and delicacy, if I say that it is to you the world principally looks for the antidote to their poison, in poetry which though the Muse of Pindar may inspire, the Spirit which moved David and Isaiah of old, and Milton and Cowper of later times, may approve and bless! "

Etc.

